

introduction

Welcome to Maine's community transportation planning handbook. This handbook provides local planners with the information they need to prepare transportation plans – or transportation chapters of comprehensive plans – that are consistent with the State's Sensible Transportation Policy Act and rule and the transportation element of the State's Growth Management Program.

HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK

The manual is divided into 8 chapters plus several appendices. **Chapters 1 and 2** provide the legal context for community transportation planning and background on the agencies that communities can call upon for assistance. **Chapter 3** walks the reader through the basics of transportation-land use planning, focusing on the “4 Ds” (density, distance, diversity, and design) that are the hinges between these two closely related fields. **Chapters 4 through 8** represent the guts of a community transportation plan: public participation, inventories, vision, the required minimum policies and strategies, and implementation.

The workhorses of the handbook may be **Appendices A and B**. Taken together, these appendices provide a menu of strategies that may be helpful in preparing a community transportation plan. Appendix A offers a number of transportation-land use planning issues that are common to many municipalities in Maine. For each issue, we then list few of the possible strategies to address it. These strategies are individually described, typically on a single page, in Appendix B. The reader need only spot the strategy or suite of strategies in Appendix A that may be of interest to him or her, and turn to the referenced pages in Appendix B for summaries of the strategies.

The descriptions of the strategies should be considered introductory. The information contained in them may be sufficient for your community to decide whether to include one or more of the strategies in its transportation plan. However, if your community wants to pursue implementation of the strategies, it may well need to consult with MaineDOT, its regional council, or others to fully scope them out.

SHORT-CUTS

Good news! You don't have to read this handbook cover-to-cover in order to use it. If you are thinking:

"I don't want to do a whole plan right now – just want to understand if my community is making the connection between transportation and land use," **go to Chapter 3.**

"I'd like to know how to inventory what our transportation system consists of," **go to Chapter 5.**

"I'd like some specific benchmarks to compare my town's practices with best practices in transportation-land use planning," **go to Chapter 5, Table 5-1, page 9.**

"I want to know what my town needs as the minimum statements of policy and strategies to include in the transportation chapter of the comprehensive plan," **go to Chapter 7, page 2.**

"I'd like an idea of the kinds of standards that would make us eligible for incentives for transportation improvements from MaineDOT," **go to Chapter 2, Table 2-1, page 3.**

"I want a general idea of the financing and regulatory approaches to implement a transportation plan," **go to Chapter 8.**

"I want to review the common transportation-land use issues that towns like mine commonly face, and the packages of strategies that might be useful to address them" **go to Appendix A.**

"I'd like a few strategies to:

- Prevent congestion and preserve mobility," **go to Appendix B, pages B3-B13.**
- Enhance the form and pattern of development," **go to Appendix B, pages B14-B22.**
- Introduce or expand modes of passenger transportation," **go to Appendix B, pages B23-B30.**
- Protect and get the most out of regional transportation facilities," **go to Appendix B, pages B31-B35.**
- Maintain quality of place," **go to Appendix B, pages B36-B48.**

"I want to get in touch with the Regional Council that serves my town," **go to Chapter 2, page 7.**